

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 1-6 were pending prior to the Office Action. Claims 1-4 have been cancelled through this Reply. Therefore, claims 5 and 6 are currently pending of which claim 5 is independent. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the remarks presented herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of all pending claims.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants appreciate claim 5 is indicated to define allowable subject matter.

35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTION – Thuresson, Meloling

Claims 1-4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Thuresson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,732,560)[hereinafter "Thuresson"] in view of Meloling et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,515,694)[hereinafter "Meloling"]. Applicants respectfully traverse. Claims 1-4 have been canceled, allowable claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and the intervening claims (claims 3 and 4). Claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 5.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 5 and 6 are allowable.

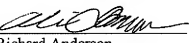
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Ali M. Imam Reg. No. 58,755 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 4, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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